

Appln No. 09/807,070
Amdt date November 15, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 29, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 are in the present application, of which only claim 1 and 21 are independent. Claim 1 has been amended herein. New claims 21-23 have been added without adding new matter. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20. Applicants further respectfully request consideration on the merits and allowance of claims 21-23.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,926,796 ("Walker et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,869,826 ("Eleftheriou").

In rejecting these claims, the Examiner states that "Walker et al teach a method of providing a communication interface (col. 7, lines 18-23) for coupling a point-of-sale (P.O.S.) system to a cash management system (col. 6, lines 46-48) for providing communication between the P.O.S. system and the cash management system (col. 7, lines 30-40)."

Applicants, however, cannot find any reference to a cash management system similar to that of the present invention in the cited sections of Walker et al., nor in any other portion of Walker et al. By way of example, while the cash management system of the present invention includes "a cash management system having cash depositing and cash dispensing functions," Walker et al. is directed to a method and apparatus for selling

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subscriptions to periodicals in a retail environment. As such, it can be seen in the sections of Walker et al. cited by the Examiner, namely, Col. 7, lines 18-40, that the POS terminal 120 in Walker et al. is connected to a retail [periodicals] subscription system 130, which the Examiner appears to equate with the cash management system of the present invention. Applicants respectfully disagree.

A detailed view of the retail subscription system 130 is illustrated in FIG. 4. It can be seen in FIG. 4 and the corresponding description on Col. 7, line 57 to Col. 8, line 23, that the retail subscription system 130 includes CPU 410, RAM 420, ROM 430, data storage device 440, clock 450, authentication code generator 460, communication port 470, data network interface 480, and customer assistance service interface 490.

In fact, Walker et al. describes the functions of the retail subscription system as follows:

"Data storage device 440 maintains retail subscription system (RSS) subscriber database 442 and retail subscription system authentication code (RSSAC) database 444. RSS subscriber database 442 stores subscription information transmitted from the retailer. RSSAC database 444 contains a list of authentication codes used to validate subscription sales." (Col. 8, lines 8-14)

As such, there is no teaching or suggestion that the retail subscription system 130 is anything but a system for enabling subscription at a retail site, nor is there any indication that the retail subscription system 130 is used in any manner even

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remotely similar to the cash management system of the present invention.

The POS terminal 120 is also connected to the POS controller 122, however, the POS controller 122 appears to make up a POS system rather than being a separate cash management system. Further, "POS controller 122 preferably comprises a server equipped with conventional hardware, including CPU 310, RAM 320, ROM 330, data storage device 340, clock 350, communications port 360, data network interface 370, and POS network interface 380," and does not have any cash management functions similar to those of the cash management system of the present invention.

The Examiner admits in the Office Action that "Walker et al do not teach providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the internet." However, the Examiner further states that "Eleftheriou teaches a method wherein providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link (modem or wide-area network) and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the internet," and cites Col. 4, lines 15-26 of Eleftheriou.

However, Col. 4, lines 15-26 of Eleftheriou merely recites:

"The computer system 102 may also include other similar means for allowing computer programs or other instructions to be loaded. Such means can include,

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for example, a communications interface 118. Communications interface 118 allows software and data to be transferred between computer system 102 and external devices. Examples of communications interface 118 can include a modem, a network interface (such as an Ethernet card), a communications port, etc. Software and data transferred via communications interface 118 are in the form of signals which can be electronic, electromagnetic, optical or other signals capable of being received by communications interface 118."

First of all, the above description from Eleftheriou merely describes some means of loading software or other data, and does not refer to any loading of software related to "providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link."

As such, without any teaching or suggestion to combine the references, applicants do not believe that Eleftheriou should be combined with any other references to reject the claims of the present invention, much less Walker et al. which does not even disclose "a communication interface for coupling a point-of-sale (P.O.S.) system to a cash management system for providing communication between the P.O.S. system and the cash management system."

While applicants believe claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the art of record, applicants have amended

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claim 1 herein to further clarify its patentably distinguishable features. Claim 1 now recites: "[a] method of providing a communication interface for coupling a point-of-sale (P.O.S.) system to a cash management system having cash depositing and cash dispensing functions, the communication interface for providing communication between the P.O.S. system and the cash management system including providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link." (Emphasis Added)

Since such a method is not disclosed, either individually or together in combination, by Walker et al. and Eleftheriou, applicants submit that claim 1 is not obvious over Walker et al. in view of Eleftheriou. Therefore, applicants request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn and that it be allowed.

Since claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, they include all the terms and limitations of claim 1 in addition to other limitations, which together further patentably distinguish them over the cited references. Therefore, applicants request that the rejection of claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19 be withdrawn and that they be allowed.

II. Rejection of Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being

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unpatentable over Walker et al. in view of Eleftheriou and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,953,709 ("Gilbert et al.").

In rejecting these claims, the Examiner admits that "[n]either Walker et al nor Eleftheriou teaches providing a graphical user interface on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link." However, the Examiner states that "Gilbert et al. teach a cash machine system 28 over a communication link (service terminal 22) including providing a graphical user interface," and cites col. 3, lines 16-22, FIG. 1.

Gilbert et al., however, has a user screen 34 (regardless of whether it constitutes a GUI or not) integrated to the cash machine 28, and not to the service terminal 22 or the processor 24. As such, unlike claim 2 of the present invention which recites, in a relevant portion, "providing a graphical user interface on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link," the user screen 34 on the cash machine 28 in FIG. 1 of Gilbert et al. does not permit control of the cash machine 28 over the communication link because the cash machine 28 is the device on which the user screen is mounted.

Further, since claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, they incorporate all the terms and limitations of claim 1 in addition to other limitations, which together further patentably distinguish them over the cited references. Therefore, applicants request that the rejection of claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 be withdrawn and that they be allowed.

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III. Newly Added Claims 21-23

Claim 21 recites, for example, "the cash management system includes a user interface, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over a communication link comprises providing a user interface software on the P.O.S. system which emulates the user interface of the cash management system." The user interface is shown in FIG. 1 and described on page 2, lines 28-32 of the application as filed. The emulation of the user interface is described, starting page 8, line 12, for example. Claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 21. The method including the emulation of the user interface as in claims 21-23 is not disclosed in any art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request an early issuance of a patent with claims 1-23. If there are any remaining issues that can be addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is invited to call the applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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